

Remarks

Claims 2-35 are currently pending with claims 2 and 31 being the independent claims. Claims 2-30 and 36-52 stand rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over U.S. Patent No. 6,522,531 to Quintana (hereafter "the Quintana patent"). Claims 31-35 stand rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over the Quintana patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,307,526 to Mann (hereafter "the Mann patent"). Claims 36-52 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Mann patent.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the foregoing rejections in view of the following comments. Allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

I. **The Terminal Disclaimer Filed Herewith Overcomes the Obviousness-Type Double-Patenting Rejection**

Claims 2-30 and 36-52 stand rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over the Quintana patent. Additionally, claims 31-35 stand rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over the Quintana patent in view of the Mann patent.

Applicants have filed a terminal disclaimer disclaiming the term of any patent issuing from the present application to the term of the Quintana patent, thereby overcoming the double patenting rejection. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 2-52 under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting be withdrawn.

II. **Claims 36-52 Have Been Cancelled Without Prejudice or Disclaimer**

Claims 36-52 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Mann patent.

Applicants have cancelled claims 36-52 without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter claimed therein in an effort to expedite the allowance of the present application.

Applicants hereby expressly reserve the right to pursue the invention or inventions claimed in claims 36-52 in a continuation application under 35 U.S.C. § 120.


As claims 36-52 have been cancelled, the rejection of claims 36-52 over the Mann patent is moot. Applicants respectfully request that that Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 36-52.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "C. R. S.", written over a horizontal line.

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